

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Fatima Rojas, I have been a resident of New Haven for 19 years. I am a proud immigrant from Puebla, in Mexico and I am a member of the Semilla Collective in New Haven

I stand in support of HB 6616: "An Act Concerning Expansion Of Husky Health Benefits To Those Ineligible Due To Immigration Status". Expanding access to HUSKY regardless of immigration status is an important step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we need. I want to live in Connecticut with a future that includes healthy families. Connecticut must ensure that these individuals up to age of 26 have access to health coverage. La salud es un derecho humano universal. HEALTH is a universal human right

I am an active leader in my immigrant community in New Haven. I live with my husband and my 2 daughters Ambar and Jade.

During my first decade in New Haven, I did not have health insurance. I had 7 miscarriages in a period of a year and half. The debt brought me depression, inability to keep my job and a huge debt. I felt lost during that time. I thought that I was not going to be able to have a normal life for the trauma of losing 7 babies and at the same time not knowing how I was going to be able to pay. By fortune, I had help from friends who supported me financially.

I work as a health promoter now and I have health insurance. I see the struggles of my immigrant community every single day. One of my good friends supposed to be giving testimony today, but she is at the hospital right at this moment with tons of bill accumulating.

I respectfully ask to this committee to support and pass legislation HB 6616 to expand HUSKY access to age 26. Our work should not end with expanding access up to age 12 nor with expanding access up to age 18. And that work must continue this year by expanding HUSKY access up to age 26.

Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

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Thank you for your time,  
Fatima Rojas